The Call Letter

December 2020
Vol 46, #12

The "No L" (Noel) radio - Dan Howard

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

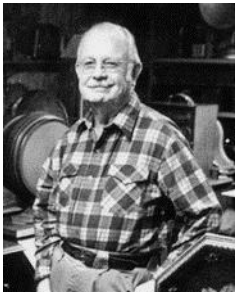
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.



With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
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Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Dan Howard: in keeping with the season, here's a photo of my Christmas radio. The "No L" (Noel) radio was put together a while back by someone with a sense of humor akin to my own.

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Announcements

December 2020 meeting - Sat. Dec.12 - Online, details in email
December Monthly Feature - Radios with a K in their name
December Tech Talk - None this month
December Tube of the Month - Ken-Rad tubes
Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads. Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.
Editor's Note - Please have January Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, December 26. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too). (No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for December 2020

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving as we have so much to be thankful for. I am urging everyone to fill out the survey that was sent to you via email. This is important to find out what our newer members need in the way of training and supplies and also an opportunity for the experienced person to chime in and share they knowledge they have. The end result will be a new Radio Enthusiast Primer, filled with current and up to date information about our hobby.
Looking forward to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2021 will have some new and exciting changes. For a new project starting next year, please think about and gather a list of all of your radio related needs.

Thanks and take care, Pat

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2020

President Pat Kagi called the November 2020 meeting of the NWVRS to order at 9:30 AM using the Zoom meeting software. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Rick Ryan recently passed away. Warren Wright is currently recovering from brain cancer. The project team has finished the "Search" feature for our past Call Letters. Many thanks to the team for this useful tool!! Liles nominated the existing group of officers to their respective offices for next year.
The nomination was seconded. Google Groups will soon be discontinuing. Members that are on Google will need to move to another computer group. Our radio sale scheduled for today has been cancelled due to the COVID19 virus.
The Program Topic for today is "Radios with Names Beginning with I, J and K." Mike McCrow showed a Kenwood K5S stereo amplifier, Pat showed a Jackson-Bell radio, Mark Richardson showed a Jackson-Bell radio, Robbie Robinson showed a Jackson-Bell, and Ed Tompkins showed a Kenwood R-1000 receiver.
The meeting minutes for the October meeting were approved as published in the November Call Letter. Bruce Baur told the group about a book "The Secret Wireless War" by Geoffrey Pidgeon. He said that it is an interesting book. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

Tube of the Month: Ken-Rad

by Mike McCrow

Originally founded in 1899, the Kentucky Electrical Lamp Co. in Owensboro KY. The company was purchased by Roy Burlew in 1918 and became the Kentucky Radio Corporation. Later the name was changed to Ken-Rad and by 1922 began making vacuum tubes for consumer radios and continued to make lamps as well. Early Ken-Rad tubes used their own numbering system, such as KR1, KR5, and KR18, and so on. I'm guessing that this created confusion for customers and by 1935 it was dropped. Ken-Rad started using tube numbers that most all manufacturers had adopted by that time. Ken-Rad grew to have three plants in Kentucky, and two in Indiana. In 1943 Burlew sold the lamp division to Westinghouse Electric Co. in exchange for stock valued at $1,600,000.

Ken-Rad secured several government and defense contracts during WWII. When it was threatened with a strike in 1944,
it was seized by the department of war by order of President Roosevelt. In 1945 Burlew sold the tube division and the remainder of the company to General Electric and it became GE's primary tube facility.

The Radio Sedan

by Art Redman

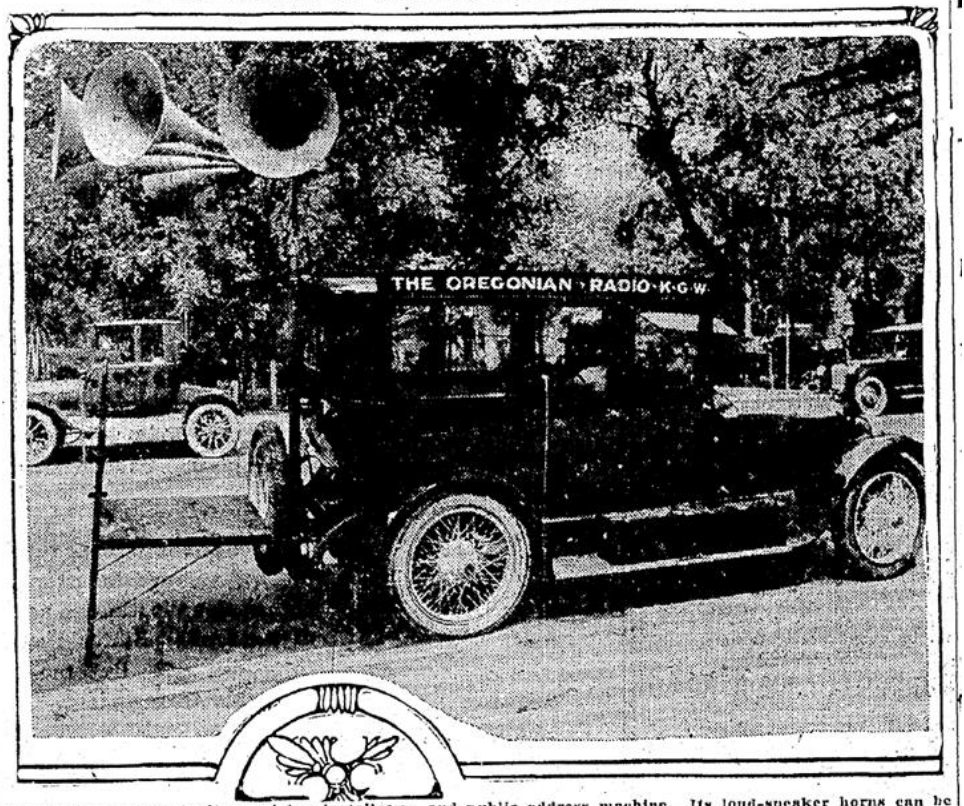
The Oregonian Radio Sedan contained a radio receiving set and a Western Electric public addresses system amplifying KGW radio programs, voices of speakers, entertainers talking, and singing from within the car to publicize the station during the summer of 1924. A stout folding platform abuts against the rear of the Radio Sedan for use in local events.

The five huge loud- speaker horns atop the car flings the voices of radio programs over an estimated area of several city blocks reaching 20,000 listeners. For picking up KGW broadcasts, a loop antenna coil placed on top of a 15 foot telescoped rod above the vehicle when needed.

The radio wagon traveled to Longview, Washington to celebrate their Pageant of Progress, July 31 to August 3, 1924. The main broadcast was a concert played by Ruth Mead. Also, dance music from the Hotel Portland by George Olsen’s Metropolitan orchestra.

This was the Oregonian's last mention of their Radio Sedan. Apparently, by September 1924 hearing radio broadcasts through a mobile vehicle and loudspeakers was no longer a novelty and viable way for KGW to promote and advertise radio programs.

NEW OREGONIAN "RADIO SEDAN" WHICH LEFT PORTLAND YESTERDAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PAGEANT OF PROGRESS CELEBRATION AT LONGVIEW.



Car houses complete radio receiving installation and public address machine. Its loud-speaker horns can be heard over an area of several city blocks.

Bibliography

"Longview to Hear KGW Radio Wagon, The Oregonian, July 29, 1924, page 16.

"Radio Sedan Goes to Longview Show", The Oregonian, July 31, 1924, page four.

Monster Mash at the Museum

By Dan Howard

On Halloween, the Gresham History Museum debuted its Radio Captivates the World exhibit. NVRS member Mark Moore's staying busy in retirement as the new Museum Curator. With the help of museum volunteer Dick Karman, Mark developed a fabulous exhibit of radios from the 1920's and 1930's to go with the museum's many other fine displays. I was wowed by the rare and wonderful artifacts from Portland's radio history (many from Mark's collection).

Saturday was a special Monster Mash at the Museum event where the History Museum participated with other downtown Gresham venues to provide family-friendly entertainment up and down Main Street. And, speaking of entertainment, Dick Karman was on site, Reliving Radio, with great vintage tunes and nostalgia for all to enjoy.

The Radio Captivates the World special display is scheduled to run through the holidays. Though the Museum is currently closed to the public, NVRS members wishing to see the display should contact Mark Moore for a private tour.

April Lindstedt, Mark Moore, and Dick Karman at at the Museum

Get in Touch with Local History

By Dan Howard

As we mentioned in a previous *Call Letter*[1], Portland is privileged to host several historic Navy vessels. In addition to the USS Blueback submarine at OMSI, the Vigor shipyard hosts a fully-restored PT Boat (PT 658) and an LCI (Landing Craft – Infantry) from World War 2. Though the vessels, like other museums, are currently off-limits due to COVID, volunteers continue to work daily to maintain and restore them. When I visited LCI-713 in 2017, the radio room was coming along aesthetically, but it was not yet functional. I learned in the December "Deck Log"[2] that a ham station, KN7LCI has been installed and is on the air. Dr. John Minahan (WA2JM) and Lin Stott (KJ7NBI) spent many hours working on establishing the station and erecting antennas. These photos will give you a flavor of what to look forward to when the vessels are again open for tours.

Restored radio room on LCI-713

[1] "Digging a Hole to Fill a Hole" The Call Letter November, 2017

[2] https://www.amphibiousforces.org/News/2020DecElsieDeckLogFinalOpt.pdf

U.S. Navy "Mill" aboard LCI-713

Strain relief for a wire radio antenna atop LCI-713
In the left foreground, a braided lead-in wire goes to a large feed-through insulator atop the "antenna trunk" that leads down to the radio room below. (Photos courtesy of AFMM)

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase

By Sonny Clutter

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy
Web Site: http://www.radiolaguy.com Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

http://www.radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature_Dec20-(REF).htm

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Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.
Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

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FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) $20
Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565 ***

I have two radios for sale: A Philco Model 20 Table Top for $70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930 Tabletop $50. Have a good day. Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

For Sale: Various radio chassis' including Philco 20, 60, and 90 and misc. others, many with full complement of tubes. Also well-made home brew and 2 armature speakers with possible good drivers. Home brew $25, any chassis $20, speaker $5 each. Everything pictured for $60 but must take all. Located in Mt. Angel, OR. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 **

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all bands and in excellent condition. Asking $165.00 or best offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 <radioray39@gmail.com> ***

1,500 45 RPM records for sale. A lot of late 1950's and early 1960's Doo Wop records. $300.00 for all. Electronically restored General Motors model 140 console radio. Very beautiful cabinet. $300.00 - Steve K. (541) 388-9978 * ➔

There are 3 pieces of equipment that I am hoping to find in the local area:
General Radio Standard Signal Generator, Type 805
Hallicrafters SX-12 Commercial Skyrider
Hallicrafters, S-37 (or S-27/C, S-27/CA)
Jeff Quay jeff_quay@hotmail.com *

WANTED: Austrian Minerva receiver model 388 made in 1937-1938. The model number should be on the center column on the front bakelite housing below the magic eye but if missing will be stamped on the back. Bob Krassa bob@krassa.com or call 303-475-2824. Thanks! (Member of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club) ***

WANTED: I need the cable that plugs into the 6 pin male receptacle in the right picture. I also need the schematic for this unit. I have very little information about this unit except it will operate from household current or from a 6-volt source in an automobile. I would like to restore this unit and make it operational. Raymond Holland,

chev33radio@comcast.net

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FIRST CLASS MAIL